THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The revised draft National Tourism Policy which was formulated in 1997 is under consideration of the Govt.

(b) The salient features of the New Policy are as follows:—

(i) Providing information, facilitation and safety to tourists.

(ii) Creating awareness amongst all sections of society about the socio-economic benefits of tourism.

(iii) Providing a national focus for the development of tourism.

(iv) Diversification of tourism products and its development.

(v) Providing for peoples participation in the development of tourism and in sharing the benefits of tourism.

(vi) Facilitating the development of a dynamic private sector in tourism industry.

(vii) Ensuring easy international access to India, enhancing carrying capacity and improving the quality of services.

(viii) Facilitating domestic tourisms by promoting amenities and facilities for budget tourists.

(c) Yes Sir, The private sector has to consider investment in tourism from a long term perspective and create the required facilities including accommodation, time share, restaurants, entertainment facilities, shopping complexes, etc. in areas identified for tourism development.

(d) Various measures which are being taken to attract foreign tourists during the millennium celebration includes Khajoraho millennium celebration, Tricentenary celebrations of the founding of Khalsa Panth, discounts by Air India through Super Summer Saver Scheme', discounts offered by Heritage Hotels during 'EIMY', Introduction of A/C Taxis by Delhi Government in the capital, Millennium Trains, Millennium Golf and Polo Tournaments, Celebration of First Sunrise of the Millennium at Katchal Island in A&N Island, and installation of Touch Screen information Kiosks.

WTTC proposals for Tourism Promotion

1343. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to accelerate tourism growth the proposal of World Travel and Tourism Council is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected time by which the proposal is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) Ministry of Tourism has not received any specific proposal from the World Travel and Tourism Council.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Expansion of Tourism Infrastructure

1344. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the arrival of foreign tourists in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the actual number of foreign tourists who came to the country in these years;

(c) the year-wise and sector-wise break up thereof;

(d) the efforts made by Government to expand infrastructure facilities to attract more number of foreign tourists in coming years; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): (a) to (c) The objective of the Govt. is to promote tourism & to increase the tourist inflow in the country. No year-wise targets as such are fixed. However, the actual number of foreign tourists who visited this country during the year 1997, 1998 & 1999 are as follows:—

Year	Actual Foreign Tourist Arrivals (Million)
1997	2.37
1998	2.36
1999	2.48

(d) and (e) Various efforts made by the Government to expand infrastructure facilities to attract more number of foreign tourist include central financial